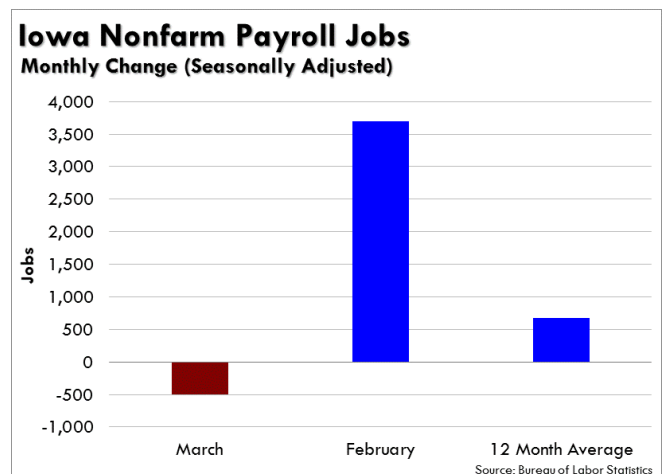
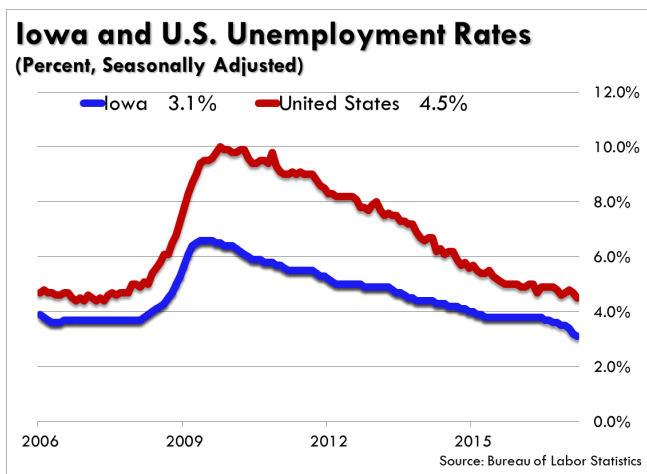


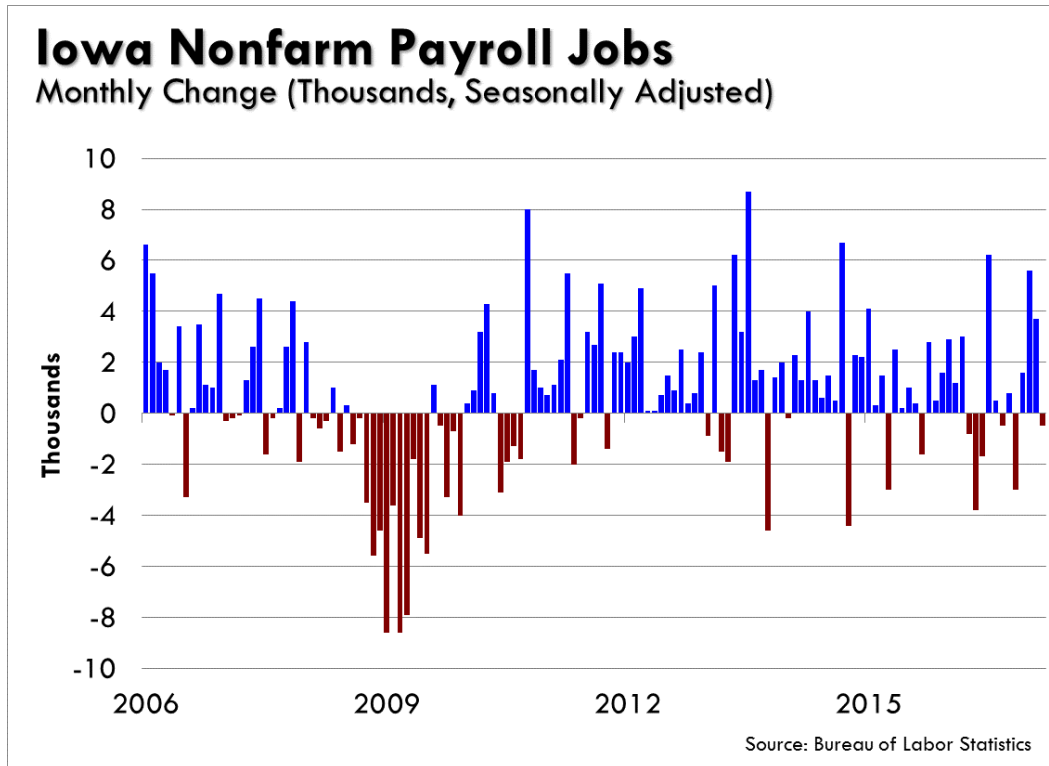


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Iowa lost 500 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.1 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Iowa added 8,100 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage point from 3.8 percent.
- **In March, Iowa's private sector payrolls remain unchanged** and over the past twelve months it created 8,800 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Iowans fell by 1,990 in March**, and over the past year 2,887 Iowans found jobs.
- Iowa's **labor force participation rate decreased to 68.9 percent** from 69 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.8 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Iowa Payroll Employment

Iowa lost 500 jobs, or 0.03 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Iowa added 3,700 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Iowa increased by 8,100, or 0.52 percent. Iowa nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

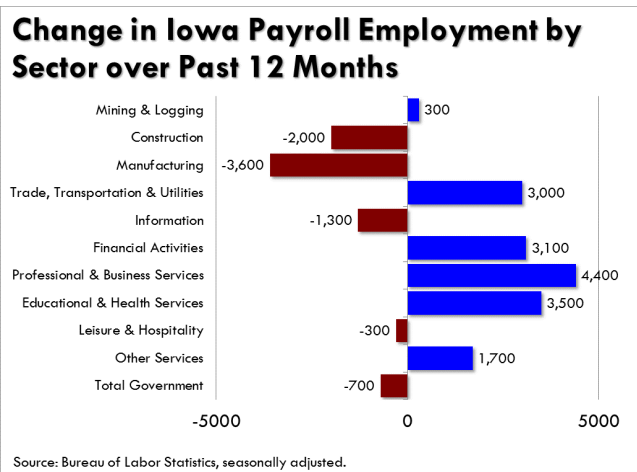
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Iowa ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Iowa's private-sector was unchanged. The private-sector in Iowa added 5,100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Iowa increased by 8,800, or 0.67 percent. Iowa private-sector payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Iowa ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Construction (+1,100) and Educational & Health Services (+700). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-2,000) and Total Government (-500).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+4,400) and Educational & Health Services (+3,500). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-3,600) and Construction (-2,000).



Iowa Labor Force Statistics

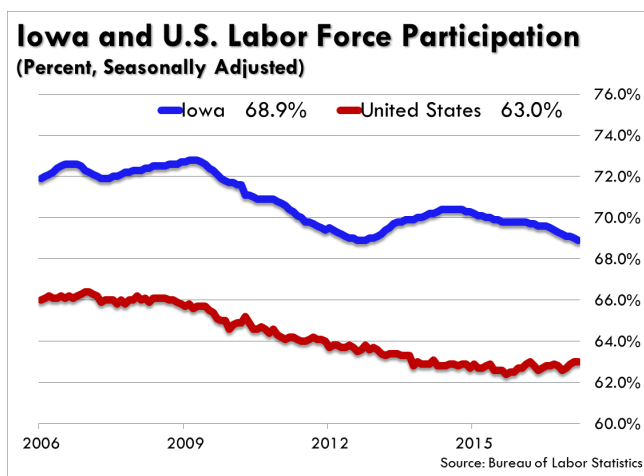
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Iowa declined to 68.9 percent in March from 69.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 6 have a higher labor force participation rate than Iowa. The labor force participation rate in Iowa is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Iowa was 72.8 percent in April 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Iowa occurred in August 1996 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.6 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 68.9 percent in March 2017. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.8 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Iowa civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 66.8 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 5 have higher



employment-to-population ratios than Iowa. The employment-to-population ratio in Iowa is 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Iowa was 69.7 percent in February 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Iowa occurred in August 1996 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 65.5 percent in October 2012. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 59.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

